REMARKS

By the above amendment, claims 2, 16 and 27 will have been canceled, without prejudice and without disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 1, 3-6, 9-15, 17-20 and 23-26 will have been amended to delete mean plus function language, and to correct informalities in the claim language. Also, claims 28 will have been entered for the Examiner's consideration. No estoppel should be deemed to be associated with this amendment.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted, Masahiro FUKAMICHI et al.

> William Pieprz Reg. No. 33,630

Bruce H. Bernstein Reg. No. 29.027

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